



*Embassy of the United States of America
Algiers, Algeria*

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Press Release

Ten Years Later: Partnership, Resilience, and the Triumph of the Human Spirit

By Ambassador Henry S. Ensher

On September 11, 2001, our lives were changed forever. On that Tuesday morning, 19 hijackers flew two planes into the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center in New York, one into the Pentagon, and one into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. In these heinous acts of terror perished nearly 3000 people, including citizens from over 90 different countries.

September 11 was a wake-up call for America. But many innocent people in many countries had already confronted the scourge of terrorism before. Algeria, in particular, suffered throughout most of the 1990s, when people lived in constant fear of the threat of violence. This Black Decade claimed the lives of over 200,000 Algerians- an incomprehensible figure with no justification and no pretext. Unfortunately, those who perpetrate such violence are still able to destroy lives. Just recently, we witnessed the horrific terrorist attacks at the Military Academy in Cherchell during what should have been a joyous iftar celebration. The innocent victims of these suicide attacks, from numerous nations, gave their lives in the pursuit of a safer, more secure world. It is up to us all to continue that pursuit and defeat the extremism that leads to such destruction.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Algeria was one of the first nations to condemn them and to express its sincere condolences. Our strong bilateral relationship has only grown since then. President Bouteflika visited Washington twice after 9/11 – the first in November, 2001 – to show Algeria’s solidarity and support. In the years that followed, a Secretary of Defense, two Secretaries of State, an Attorney General, two Assistant Secretaries of State, several members of Congress, and the head of United States Africa Command, along with various other senior American military and civilian officials have visited Algeria in a show of support for our shared fight against extremism and the terrorism it breeds. In fact, many such officials were in Algiers last week for the regional security conference Algeria and its regional partners organized to discuss regional security and the terrorist threat. The



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United States continues to regard Algeria as a strategic partner in the fight against terrorism, and we vow to strengthen this aspect of our relationship further.

As mentioned above, Algeria hosted a momentous conference September 7 and 8 on regional security and counterterrorism. Its admirable efforts in organizing this gathering demonstrated anew Algeria's dedication to working with its regional partners to confront the multiple challenges in the trans-Sahara region that fuel extremism and terrorism, including problems of access to basic services and jobs, transnational crime, and insufficient local capacities in some countries to deal effectively with terrorist and other criminal groups.

Over the last ten years, countries have responded collectively to reduce the threat of terrorism. The presence of over 15 different countries at this regional security and counterterrorism conference in Algiers, underscored this commitment. Through the concerted efforts of the international community, we can sharply impede the capabilities of terrorist groups to recruiting, train, and finance their activities. The United States remains steadfastly dedicated to working with our partners across the globe to confront and to counter violent extremists.

Terrorists have failed to achieve their goals. Individuals, communities, and nations have shown that they are stronger than fear. Far from being paralyzed by the violent actions of a few, people around the world are focused on pursuing greater ambitions for themselves and for their children: achieving higher levels of education, creating new economic opportunities, and improving the systems that govern them.

The anniversary of 9/11 is a day to remember those we lost. Today, we pay tribute to those who perished on September 11, 2001 – in New York, Washington, and Shanksville – and to reaffirm that their legacy is a safer, stronger, and more resilient world, dedicated to working with our partners across the globe in rooting out the seeds of terrorism. For the last ten years, the United States has put al-Qa'ida, in its myriad forms, under strong and unrelenting pressure. Doing so has helped renew core alliances and build new international partnerships. Al-Qa'ida's vision of murder and destruction now stands in even starker contrast than it did prior to 9/11 with our and our partners' affirmative support for peace, security, prosperity, and universal rights in all corners of the globe.

On this somber day, as we honor all victims of terrorism, we also honor the resilience of the survivors, the families, and the communities of those touched by terrorism on all continents of the earth. We must never forget those who were lost, and we must remain united to prevent future attacks and further victims. The tenth anniversary of September 11 is a milestone, a moment when all societies can reflect on the enduring strength of the human spirit. In doing so, we send a unified message: Terrorism will not prevail. It has no religion. It has no country. It has no future. We will be



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vigilant and, around the world, we will pursue our lives not with fear, but with confidence and conviction, side by side with our allies.